although hardwood may be used earlier in February. Due to the wind and possible rain, air layering is not recommended before April 15th. Warm weather should bring quick results.

Grafting of the finer varieties in the spring months using side or whip grafts should give you a blooming size plant by August or early fall. A good rootstock such as Brilliant or Painted Lady should be used for best results. The plant to be grafted on should have a good root system and good drainage. Use water only sparingly until the graft is well healed.

In order to properly care for hibiscus already in the garden, most hibiscus growers here turn to their nurseryman for new varieties or healthy ready-to-plant specimen. In the past we have always been able to turn to Mr. Henry Link of Weslaco, for the latest varieties or helpful advice on hibiscus. During the past year other nurseries have endeavored to secure the newer varieties from Florida, California and Hawaii so 1959 should show much progress in hibiscus growing on the southeast coast of Texas.

Varieties that thrive well here include Ross Estey, Patricia Gautier, Typhoon, Mother's Day, Bride, the local seedling, Gladys Carroll, John Paul Jones, Mrs. James E. Hendry. Still very popular is Crown of Bohemia while the Latin Rhythm bloom creates excitement. For blooms, Bernice Hudson is hard to beat. Miss Sallie has shown excellent vigor and the bloom is large and outstanding. Much in demand here is Kapiolani with its large semi-double and double bloom of yellow and red. I have been supplied with many other new hybrids by Rev. Gibson of Galveston, local Valley nurseryman, friends and nurserymen in Florida and will report on these at a later date.

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CULTURE IN NORTH FLORIDA

- Robert H. McCubbin, Jacksonville, Fla.

Now that the possibility of the freeze damage is about over we can give more thought to getting our Hibiscus out of the so called dormant state. Those cans and pots that have been in sheds, garages, and

what have you, should come out and into the ground. Start feeding these plants a high nitrogen content fertilizer at once. Continue this feeding at regular intervals for about 2 to 3 months, all the time making sure that these plants are getting enough water. After that period alternate with organic fertilizer and the high nitrogen. A good fertilizer would be a 6-6-6 with 50% organic or even a top grade of well rotted stable manure. Any plant that has been in the ground all winter must have the banking medium removed and the soil around the plant loosened to let the fertilizer and water get to the roots easily. Make sure all weather damaged parts of the plants are cut back to the point that a good bright green is showing. This, as you may already know, is the best indication that the plant is still alive and the possibilities are good that the plant will make a comeback.

Those of you that have had cuttings in boxes as I have had should make sure that they have good roots before putting them in cans or pots. Quart cans or 3 to 4 inch pots are suitable for these little cuttings. They can be moved to larger containers later. It is suggested that a liquid fertilizer be used on any transplant at once to reduce some shock that generally occors. Be sure that the soil has proper drainage. This is also a good time to top a plant so that new shoots will form in a quicker time.

In early spring keep an eye out for the various insects that are bound to come around to go after those nice tender new shoots. Unless your place is an exception to the rule, they will be on hand. These cool mornings are just right for so many insects that can really do severe damage if not caught in time. Check with your local feed store or nurseryman for the proper insectides to use. Don't try to make one poison do for all insects as that certainly isn't the cure.

Now that you have done the necessary things to get your plants on the go for spring and summer lets all concentrate on producing the best Hibiscus ever for our various shows around the State. If you have